An IMPARTIAL

ENQUIRY

INTO THE

Right of the FRENCH King

TO

The Territory West of the Great River MISSISSIPPI, in NORTH AMERICA, not ceded by the PRELIMINARIES,

INCLUDING

A Summary Account of that RIVER, and the COUNTRY adjacent;

WITH

A ſhort Detail of the Advantages it poſſeſſes, it's Native Commodities, and how far they might be improved to the Advantage of the BRITISH Commerce.

COMPREHENDING

A Vindication of the ENGLISH Claim to that Whole Continent, from AUTHENTIC RECORDS, and indiſputable Hiſtorical Facts;

AND

Particular Directions to NAVIGATORS for entering the ſeveral Mouths of that important RIVER.

LONDON,
Printed for W. NICOLL, at the Paper-Mill, in St. Paul's Church Yard.
[Price One Shilling.]

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A Short Time Since it became possible, the
Means Communicated, and how far they might
be improved to the Advantage of the British
Commerce.

COMPREHENDING

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valuable Country against Antient Records,
and indisputable Historical Facts;

AND

The Particular Directions to Navigators for entering
the several Mouths of that important River.

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An IMPARTIAL

ENQUIRY, &c.

WHEN the Clamour of Faction, and the Voices of Prejudice and Partiality are loud in the Nation, it may poſſibly be deemed in ſome Degree meritorious to be diſpaſſionate in the Enquiries I ſhall make. My ultimate End is the Service of my Country, and in a particular and intereſting Affair to vindicate its Honour, and defend its Rights and Properties againſt the Aſſertions, Claims, and Pretenſions of the *French*.

I find by the ſixth Preliminary Article of Peace, publiſhed by Authority, which now lays before me, "That the River *Miſſiſſippi* is to be the Boundary of his Majeſty's *American* Dominions, fixed by a Line drawn from its Source as far as the River *Iberville*, and from thence along

the Middle of that River, and of the Lakes *Maurepas* and *Pontchartain* to the Sea; and that the Moſt Chriſtian King cedes in full Right, and guarantees to his *Britannick* Majeſty, the River and Port of *Mobile*, and every thing he poſſeſſes and ought to have poſſeſſed on the left Side (the Eaſt) of the River *Miſſiſſippi*, except the Town of *New Orleans*, and the Iſland on which it is ſituated."

In this Caſe, it cannot be unacceptable to the Publick, to be made acquainted with what Part of that Tract of Land, named, by the *French*, *Louiſiane*, is ceded, and what retained by them, to be informed of the Nature of the Commodities it now poſſeſſes or is capable of affording; to know the Advantages of the *Great River*, to the Navigation of which we have now an undoubted and acknowleged Right, and above all, to be convinced from authentic Records and uncontroverted Facts, that *Great Britain* has not only a Right to what is ceded to her by the above-mentioned Articles, but to all the Province of *Louiſiana*, which lies to the Weſt of the great River *Miſſiſſippi*.

To

To prove this will be no very difficult Matter.

In the Year 1497, *Sebaſtian Cabot*, having King *Henry* the Seventh's Commiſſion, and being equipped at his Expence, diſcovered all the Coaſt of *America* fronting the great *Atlantic* Ocean, from the Degrees of 56 to 28 of North Latitude. This was more than twenty Years before any other *Europeans* viſited that Continent. We have for this not only the Teſtimony of our own Hiſtorians, but the moſt eminent among the *Spaniſh*, *viz. Peter Martyr*, in his *Decades*; *Oviedo*, formerly Governor of *Hiſpaniola*, *Herrera*, and *Gomera*; alſo *Ramuſio*, Secretary to the Republick of *Venice*, whoſe Works were printed in 1550: and his Contemporary, *Paulus Jovius*.

Above twenty Years after the Southern Part of this Continent, adjacent to the Gulph of *Bahama*, and that afterwards called the Gulph of *Mexico*, was viſited by *Juan Ponce de Leon*, a *Spaniard*; and ten Years after *Vaſquez Ayllon* landed there with a greater Force; and in the Year 1527 *Pamphilo Narvaez*, with a

ſtill greater; and next, *Ferdinando Soto*, in the Year 1539; but they were all ſucceſſively expelled by the Natives for their Cruelty. The laſt Expedition of the *Spaniards* to that Part of *Florida* which borders on the Gulph of *Mexico*, was in the Year 1558, by the Order of Don *Luys de Velaſco*, then Viceroy of *Mexico*; but falling into great Feuds they made no Settlement.

In the Beginning of the Reign of *Charles* the Firſt all that Part of the Continent of *North America* which lay between *Virginia* and *Mexico* was unſettled, and in the Poſſeſſion of the Natives only: The *Engliſh*, as being the firſt Diſcoverers, had a better Right to it than any *European* Nation could claim; conſequently King *Charles*, in the fifth Year of his Reign, granted unto Sir *Robert Heath*, his Attorney General, a Patent of all that Part of *America* from the River *St. Mattheo*, on the Peninſula of *Florida*, in 30 Degrees North Latitude, to the River *Paſſo Magno*, in 36 Degrees, comprehending within its Boundaries the greateſt Part of the preſent

Pro-

Province of *Carolina*: In Longitude this Grant extended from the *Atlantic* Ocean to the *South Sea*.

In the 13th Year of King *Charles* the Firſt, Sir *Robert Heath* conveyed the Premiſes to the Lord *Maltravers*, afterwards Earl of *Arundel* and Earl Marſhal of *England*, who planted and ſettled ſeveral Parts of this Country, to which the King, in his Charter aforeſaid, had given the Name of *Carolana*. In all Probability a Colony would at that Time have been effectually eſtabliſhed, had not the War with *Scotland* broke out, and ſoon after the Civil War; and had not my Lord *Arundel*'s Son proved a Lunatick. In the Beginning of the Protectorate of *Oliver Cromwell*, Captain *Watts* (afterwards knighted by *Charles* the Second, and made Governor of *St. Chriſtopher's*) falling accidentally on the Coaſt of *Florida*, met with one *Leet*, an *Engliſhman*, who had been ſome Years before ſhipwrecked, and the only Man ſaved; he was in great Favour with the *Paracouſſi*, or Chief of the Country; by his Influence the *Engliſh* were permitted to trade

and

and invited to ſettle; and not long afterwards the *Indian* King ſent one of his chief Subjects to *England*, gave the *Engliſh* divers Tracts of Land, and permitted them to ſurvey the Country for above two hundred Miles ſquare.

In the Year 1678 many Perſons went from *New England* on Diſcovery, and proceeded as far as *New Mexico*, 150 Leagues beyond the River *Miſſiſippi*, and gave an Account of their Expedition to the Government. Soon after a War breaking out between the *Engliſh* and the *Indians*, many of the latter retreated to *Canada*, from whom Monſ. *de Salle* received moſt of his Information concerning the Country, ſince called *Louiſianne*, which he more fully diſcovered; they ſerved him for Guides and Interpreters. This is atteſted by Monſ. *le Tonty*, who accompanied Monſ. *de Salle*; and by Monſ. *le Clerc* *, in a Book publiſhed by Order of the *French* King.

* There cannot well be a greater Inſtance of *French* Policy than the endeavouring to ſuppreſs this Book; which having in it divers Paſſages which inadvertently favoured the Pretenſions of the *Engliſh*, was called in; and though ſold at firſt for one Livre, was not, ſoon after, to be purchaſed for thirty.—This is their Manner of founding their Rights.

Colonel

Colonel *Wood*, of *Virginia*, who lived at the Falls of *James* River, above a hundred Miles West of *Cheſapeak* Bay, betwixt the Years 1654 and 1664, diſcovered ſeveral Branches of the *Ohio* and *Miſſiſſippi*. In theſe Expeditions one Mr. *Needham* was employed by the ſaid Colonel, and he kept regular Journals, afterwards of great Uſe. This is ſufficient to ſet aſide the Claim made by the *French*, before the War to the Countries about the *Ohio* and the Great Lakes, to which we have always had a ſole and undoubted Right; but, indeed, if their Claims had been in any Sort allowed, we ſhould have been confined to very narrow Limits; for in *De l'Iſle*'s Map, in the Part where they fix *Carolina*, they have inſerted this memorable Paſſage: *Caroline ainſi nommez en l'honneur de Charles* ix. *par les François qui la decouvrirent, en prirent poſſeſſion, & l'eſtablirent l'an* 15. . . . It was become neceſſary for them to be poſſeſſed of a Part of the Sea Coaſt, and this they thought the moſt proper for them to claim, as being at that Time an Infant Colony, conſequently an eaſier Prey.

It

It is worth while, in this Place, to note the Limits ſet to our Colonies by Monſ. *de l'Iſle*, Coſmographer to *Louis* XIV. in his Map of *America*. He begins his Line at *Charles-Town*, in *Carolina*, and croſſing *Santee* River, carries it up to its Source in the *Apalachean* Mountains; thence he runs it along the Ridge of the Mountains till he brings it to the Back of *Maryland*; when croſſing the Province of *Pennſylvania*, and the River *Saſquehanou*, not many Leagues from *Cheſapeak* Bay, he carries it up the River to the Forks, and from thence almoſt in a ſtrait Line to Lake *Champlain*: By this Means near half the Settlements of our Northern Provinces were claimed by the *French*.

We have now, thank God, a much larger Extent of Territory: By the River *Miſſiſſippi* being made the Boundary, we ſhall be poſſeſſed of all the great Lakes and Rivers to the Eaſt between the *Miſſiſſippi* and the *Atlantic* Ocean. Perhaps there is not in the World a finer Country than the ſouthern Part of this immenſe Tract of Land; and to the North, by means

Means of the Lakes and Rivers now well known, there is as great a Convenience and Opportunity for an extenſive Inland Navigation, as the moſt Commercial Nation can deſire.

I ſhall now take upon me to give ſome Deſcription of the *Miſſiſippi*, into which almoſt all the Rivers on this great Continent flow.

The *French* have long pretended to have been the firſt Diſcoverers of this River; but this is far from being true. Dr. *Cox*, who claimed the Province of *Carolana*, as Aſſignee, under the Charter granted to Sir *Robert Heath*, in the Year 1699, preſented a Memorial to King *William* on the Subject; by this it appears, that the Doctor was, as long ago as the Year 1676, poſſeſſed of a Journal from the Mouth of the River *Miſſiſippi*, in the Gulph of *Mexico*, to the *Yellow River*, which Journal ſeemed to have been written many Years before. To it was annexed a very large Map, or Chart, of the River, and the Names of the Nations that inhabited its Banks; and more modern Diſcoveries, *Engliſh*, as well as *French*,

have confirmed ſince, in the moſt material Inſtances, the Authenticity of the ſaid Journal and Map. It was a Confidence in theſe Journals, that encouraged the *Engliſh* to attempt farther Diſcoveries, in which attempts, Dr. *Cox* *, for his Share, ſpent above nine Thouſand Pounds.

The Extent of the Province of *Carolana* has already been mentioned, it is bounded

* The Repreſentation of the Board of Trade, in favour of Dr. *Cox*'s Pretenſions, may not, perhaps, be deemed incurious; it is as follows:

"*To the King's Moſt Excellent Majeſty.*

"*May it pleaſe your Majeſty,*

"In obedience to your Majeſty's Commands, ſignified to us by the Right Hon. Mr. Secretary *Vernon*, upon the Petition of Dr. *Cox*, in relation to the Province of *Carolana*, alias *Carolana Florida*, we have conſidered his ſaid Petition, and humbly crave leave to repreſent unto your Majeſty, That your Majeſty's Attorney-General, upon the Peruſal of Letters Patents, and Conveyances, produced to him by Dr. *Cox*, has reported to us his Opinion, that Dr. *Cox* has a good Title in Law to the ſaid Province of *Carolana*, extending from 31 to 36 Degrees of North Latitude inclusive on the Continent of *America*, and to ſeveral adjacent Iſlands.

Signed, STAMFORD.
LEXINGTON.
P. MEADOWS.
WILLIAM BLATHWAIT.
JOHN POLLEXFEN.
ABRAHAM HILL.
GEORGE STEPNEY."

Whitehall, *December* 21, 1699.

The Attorney-General at that Time was Sir *Thomas Trevor*, afterwards Lord *Trevor*, a Man of acknowleged great Abilities; it muſt therefore, in conſequence of his Opinion, be ſuppoſed, that we had at leaſt *then* a Right to *all* the Country now comprehended by the *French*, under the name of *Louiſiana*.

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on the East by *Carolina*, which was granted by Charters in the Reign of *Charles* the Second, thirty Years after the Grant to Sir *Robert Heath* above-mentioned, great Part of which it comprehends within its Bounds.

The great River *Miſſiſſippi*, or *Meſchacebe* *, naturally firſt claims my Attention; it has a Courſe almoſt directly North and South from its firſt Fountains, in about fifty Degrees North Latitude, to its emptying itſelf into the Middle of the Gulph of *Mexico*; on the Weſt Side of this great River, many others, that take their Riſe from the Mountains, near the great South Sea, run into it; and on the Eaſt Side next the *Britiſh* Colonies and the *Atlantic* Ocean, almoſt as many increaſe its Stream, inſomuch that the Coun-

* *Meſchacebe* is the proper Name of this River; it is ſo called by the Inhabitants of the North; *Cebe* being the Name for a River even as far as *Hudſon's Bay*, and *Meſcha* ſignifying great. The *French*, who learnt it from the *Indians*, corruptly call it *Miſſiſſippi*; it retains the Name of *Meſchacebe* among the Natives during half it's Courſe, afterwards ſome call it *Chucagua*, others, *Saſſagoula*, and *Malabanchia*; it was, doubtleſs, named the *Great River*, as being the largeſt in all the *North American* Continent, and receiving into it's Channel ſuch a Number of other Rivers of no ſmall note and conſequence. I ſhall call it *Miſſiſſippi*, as being the Name it is moſt generally known by.

try may be almoſt entirely viſited by navigable Rivers, and, what is very remarkable, without Falls or Cataracts, which are ſo common in the *North American* Rivers, eſpecially thoſe towards *Canada*. It is needleſs to mention the Convenience of theſe Rivers for Inland Trade and Navigation, for Trade with the *Spaniards* in *New Mexico*, and the whole Gulph of *Mexico*, which muſt be greatly to the Advantage of the Nation, yet without any Prejudice to our Home Plantation Trade.

The River *Miſſiſſippi* empties itſelf into the Gulph of *Mexico* by ſeven Channels, all navigable, the three largeſt by Ships, the four ſmaller, two on each Side, by Boats and Sloops, eſpecially when the Freſhes come down.

The three Branches navigable by Shipping, are about ſix Miles diſtant from each other, uniting all at one Place, about twelve Miles from their Mouths. There is not above fourteen Feet on the Bar at Low Water in Neap Tides, excepting when the Freſhes come down in the Spring, or after great Rains; but when you are over the Bar, which is not,

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in many Places, above a Ship's Length broad, you enter immediately into deep Water, the leaſt five Fathom, which increaſes to ten Fathom before you come to the main River; after that it deepens gradually to above thirty, and you have no where leſs than twenty Fathom for a hundred Miles, and very little leſs for a hundred Leagues, and afterwards from ten to ſeventeen for a hundred Leagues more; from ſix to ten two hundred Leagues farther; thence to the great Fall, which is ſixteen hundred Miles from the River's Mouth, from three to ſix Fathom. The Banks in moſt Places are not more than five or ſix Feet above the River, and Ships may lay by the Side of the Shore, there being generally from three to ſix Fathom, deepening gradually towards the Middle, where there is, for the moſt part, a ſtrong Current, but good Anchorage, at the ſame Time, under the Promontories, ſheltered from the Winds.

The Banks of this River, at the Diſtance of four or five Leagues from the Sea, are beautifully ornamented with high Trees; very little Underwood is there to incom-

incommode the Traveller, except the Vines, which every where abound, ſometimes crawling on the Ground, at others climbing to the Tops of the moſt lofty Trees.

In theſe Woods are plenty of wild Kine, Veniſon, and all Kinds of Game, Fruits in Abundance, and a Soil capable of producing all the Neceſſaries and Delights of Life. The Meadows, which are moſt beautiful and fertile, are proper for immediate Cultivation; and the gentle Aſcents, crowned with Tufts of Trees, make the whole an enchanting Proſpect.

I ſhall now proceed to mention the Rivers that diſcharge themſelves into the *Miſſiſippi*, of which there is none of any Conſequence till you have aſcended rather more than two hundred Miles from the Sea, when on the Eaſtern Side you meet with the *Iberville*, mentioned in the ſixth Article of the Preliminaries as a Boundary. After a Courſe of a hundred and ſixty Miles, croſſing the Lakes *Maurepas* and *Pontchatrain*, it empties itſelf into the North East End of the great Bay of *Spirito Santo*; it is not above forty or fifty

Yards

Yards broad, and two or three Fathom deep at its Beginning, but ſoon enlarges and makes a fine River; it is navigable by the greateſt Boats, Sloops, and ſmall Ships, *Engliſh* built, and large ones, *Dutch* built, with flat Bottoms. About fifty Miles above the *Iberville*, on the Weſt Side, is the *Houmas*; this is a very large River, deep and broad, and comes from the Mountains of *New Mexico*; its Courſe is, for the moſt part, North-Weſt, navigable above three hundred Miles up by large Veſſels, and almoſt to its Source by Boats. Twelve Leagues higher is the River of *Natches* on the ſame Side: About fifteen or ſixteen Leagues from its Mouth, beyond a fine Iſland which it forms, is a great Fiſhery for Pearls, which prove large and good: Twelve or fourteen Leagues higher, on the ſame Weſt Side, the *Miſſiſſippi* makes a little Gulph about twenty Miles long and three or four broad; this alſo abounds with Pearls. Fourteen or fifteen Leagues higher on the Eaſt Side is the River of *Yaſoue*, which comes near a hundred Leagues out of the Country. Ten or twelve Leagues farther on, is

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the *Natchitoak* on the West Side, which has a Course of many hundred Miles, and after it has ascended about a hundred, there are many Springs, Pits, and Lakes, which afford most excellent common Salt in great Plenty. Sixteen Leagues higher, on the same Side, two Rivers enter the *Mississippi*, which unite about ten Leagues above, and make an Island called *Torimans*, from the *Indian* Inhabitants. Southerly of these two Rivers, is that of *Ousoutiwy*, the River to the North is called *Niska*. Ten Leagues further up is the small River called *Cappa*; and ten Miles higher, on the same Side, another called *Matchicebe*. Ten Leagues higher, on the East Side, is the *Chongue*; and fifteen Leagues from thence, on the West Side, the *Sypouria*. Thirty Leagues higher on the East Side, is the opening of a River which proceeds out of a Lake twenty Miles long, which is about ten Miles from the *Mississippi*; into this Lake four large Rivers discharge themselves, which add greatly to the Value of the Country ceded to *Great Britain* by the Preliminaries. The most northerly, which comes from the North East, is the

Ouabachican, or *Ouabache*. The next South of this is the great and important River *Ohio* *, which has been the Seat of the late *American* Campaigns, and coming from the back of *New-York*, *Maryland*, and *Virginia*, is navigable six hundred Miles. South of the *Ohio* is another River, which about thirty Leagues above the Lake is divided into two Branches; that to the North called *Ouesspere*, the other the *Black River*. This River rises from the West Side of the Mountains, at the Back of *Carolina*, *Virginia*, and *Maryland*. The most southerly of the four Rivers that discharge themselves into the Lake, is the *Kasqui*, or the River of the *Cheraquees*; it comes from the South East, rising among the Mountains on the Borders of *Carolina*, and has long been the great Road of the *Indian* Traders

* *Ohio*, in the *Indian* Language, signifies *Fair River*, and, indeed, it may very properly be so called, running through one of the most fertile and beautiful Countries in the World, and being formed by the Conflux of ten or twelve Rivers, and innumerable Rivulets. A Town settled upon this Lake, at the Entrance of the *Ohio*, would have a Communication with a delightful Country 600 Miles square, and be most advantageously situated to form the Mart and Centre of all the inland Trade of the Continent; perhaps something of the Kind may be done when the Peace is concluded.

from thence to the *Miſſiſippi*. Fifteen Leagues above the *Ohio*, on the Weſt Side of the *Miſſiſippi*, is the *Honabanoue*, and about ten Leagues above that, is the the great Iſland *Tamaroas*; fifteen Leagues above which, to the Weſt, is the great *Yellow River*: About ſixty or ſeventy Miles from its Mouth, it is divided into two Branches, both deſcending from the Mountains of *New Mexico*; one, called *Ozages*, proceeds from the South, the other from the North Weſt. This laſt, which is called after the *Maſſorites*, is ſaid by the *Indians* to have, by means of ſeveral Lakes, a Communication with the great South Sea. Forty Miles above the *Yellow River*, on the Eaſt Side, is the *Checagon*, or *Alinouecks*, called by the *French Illinois*: This is a very fine River, and about two hundred and fifty Miles from its Mouth, it is divided into two Branches; the leſſer derives its Source from North and by Eaſt, and its Head is within four or five Miles of the great Lake *Illinois* on its Weſt Side: The other comes directly from the Eaſt, and proceeds from a Moraſs within two Miles of the River *Miamiha*, which dif-

discharges itself into the same Lake. Forty Leagues higher up, the *Mississippi*, on the West Side, is the River *Moingone*; and on the East, about as much farther, is the *Misconsiag*. About the same Distance from the last mentioned River, on the West, is the *Mitchaoywa*, or the *Long River*. A little higher up is the *Chabadeba*, above which the *Mississippi* forms a fine Lake, twenty Miles long, and eight or ten broad. Ten Miles above the Lake on the East, is the large River of *Tortoises*, which leads to the North East, and is navigable by the greatest Boats forty Miles; about the same Distance higher up there is a Fall, after which the *Mississippi* is navigable eighty or ninety Miles farther to another Fall, and beyond that to its Sources not far from *Hudson's Bay*.

When the Number of Rivers that fall into the *Mississippi* is considered, the great Importance of it must be sufficiently obvious. On the East Side, which comprehends the Tract ceded by the Preliminaries to *Great Britain*, it has by its Branches a Communication with all our Colonies, which must of Course, when

the inland Parts of the Country come to be ſettled, be of great Advantage to them. On the Weſt Side, where the Branches are ſtill more numerous, this great River is ſaid to have a Communication with the Mountains of *Mexico*, from whence many large Streams have their Source, which diſcharge themſelves into the great *South Sea*.

The *French*, by retaining all the Continent to the Weſt of the *Miſſiſſippi*, have the Advantage of us, for they have in that Quarter much greater Opportunities of carrying on an extenſive *Indian* Trade than we can on the oppoſite Side. On the Back of our Colonies the *Indian* Nations are almoſt extirpated, by the frequent and bloody Wars they have, for many Years paſt, carried on one againſt the other: Many potent and numerous Tribes, that formerly inhabited the Eaſtern Branches of the *Miſſiſſippi*, are now either quite deſtroyed by the *Indians* of the Five Nations, or driven from their Settlements, and forced to fly to the Weſtern Side. Even about the Lakes and to the

North-

Northward the *Indians* are by far leſs numerous than they were in our Fathers' Times; ſo that it is much to be feared that the Fur Trade, from which we ſeem to form ſuch mighty Hopes, will prove by far leſs valuable than we expect, as all the *Indians* that live to the North-Weſt of the *Miſſiſippi*, will ſtill, probably, continue to trade with the *French* only; for were they inclined to croſs the *Miſſiſippi* to deal with us, they will, by the *French*, be eaſily prevented, by only building a few Stoccado Forts at the Mouths of the Rivers.

The *French* King, by the ſixth Preliminary Article above quoted, cedes to *Great Britain* all the Country to which he has any Claim on the Eaſt of *Miſſiſippi*, except the Iſle *de Naſſau*, or *New Orleans*; of which Notice will be hereafter taken. The Country ſo ceded he alſo guarantees to us; but I do not find that we guarantee to him what he chuſes to reſerve, I mean the Country to the Weſt of the River; our Claim to it, as Part of the Province of *Carolana*, is ſtill good, by

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the Charter* granted to Sir *Robert Heath*. This Province is described to extend from

* As some of my Readers may be curious to see this Charter, I have given them the following Extracts from it:-

"*Charles by the Grace of God, &c. to all to whom these Presents shall come, greeting.*

"WHEREAS our trusty and well-beloved Subject and Servant, Sir *Robert Heath*, Knight, our Attorney General, being excited with a laudable Zeal for the propagating the *Christian* Faith, the Enlargement of our Empire and Dominions, and the Increase of Trade and Commerce of our Kingdom, has humbly besought Leave of us, by his own Industry and Charge, to transport an ample Colony of our Subjects, &c. unto a certain Country, hereafter described, in the Parts of *America*, between the Degrees of 31 and 36 of Northern Latitude inclusively, not yet cultivated or planted, &c.

"Know ye therefore, that we, favouring the pious and laudable Purpose of our said Attorney, of our special Grace, certain Knowledge, and mere Motion, have given, granted, and confirmed, and by this our present Charter, do give, grant, and confirm, unto the said Sir *Robert Heath*, Knight, his Heirs and Assigns, for ever, all that River, or Rivulet, of *St. Matthew*, on the South Part, and all that River, or Rivulet, of *Passo Magno*, on the North Part, and all Lands, Tenements, and Hereditaments, lying, being, and extending between, or within the said two Rivers, by the Tract there, unto the Ocean on the Eastern and Western Parts, so far forth, and as much as the Continent there extends itself, with every of their Appurtenances. And also all those Islands of *Veanis* and *Babama*, and all other Islands and Islets near thereto, and lying Southward of and from the said Continent, all which lie within 31 and 36 Degrees of Northern Latitude inclusively. And all, and singular Havens of Ships, Roads, and Creeks of the Sea, to the said Rivers, Islands, and Lands belonging; and all Grounds, Lands, Woods, Lakes, and Rivers within the Regions, Islands, and Limits aforesaid, situate, or being; with all Kinds of Fishes whatsoever, Whales, Sturgeons, and other Royal Fish and Fishings in the Sea and Rivers: And all Veins, Mines, Pits, as well open as shut,

the River *St. Matthæo* on the South Part to the River of *Passo Magno* on the North.

St.

ſhut, of Gold, Silver, Gems, precious Stones, and other Stones, Metals, or Things whatſoever, within the ſaid Region, Territory, Iſlands, or Limits aforeſaid, found, or to be found. And all Patronages, and Advowſons of all Churches, which, by encreaſe of Chriſtian Religion, ſhall hereafter happen to be built within the ſaid Region, Territory, Iſland, and Limits aforeſaid; with all and ſingular, and with as ample Rights, Juriſdictions, Privileges, Prerogatives, Royalties, Liberties, Immunities, Royal Rights, and Franchiſes whatſoever, as well by Sea as Land, within the ſaid Region, Territory, Iſlands, and Limits aforeſaid: To have, uſe, exerciſe, and enjoy, in as ample Manner as any Biſhop of *Durham*, in our Kingdom of *England*, ever heretofore hath held, uſed, or enjoyed, or of Right ought, or could have, uſe, or enjoy.

"And him the ſaid Sir *Robert Heath*, his Heirs and Aſſigns, we do by theſe Preſents, for us, our Heirs and Succeſſors, make, create, and conſtitute the true and abſolute Lords and Proprietors of the ſaid Region, and Territory aforeſaid, and of all other the Premiſſes, ſaving always the Faith and Allegiance due to us, our Heirs, and Succeſſors. And that the Country, or Territory, thus by us granted and deſcribed, may be dignified by us with as large Titles and Privileges as any other of our Dominions and Territories in that Region.

"Know ye, that we of our further Grace, certain Knowlege, and mere Motion, have thought fit to erect the ſame Tract of Ground, Country, and Iſland, into a Province, and, out of the Fullneſs of our Royal Power and Prerogative, we do, for us, our Heirs, and Succeſſors, erect and incorporate the ſame into a Province, and do name it *Carolana*, or the Province of *Carolana*, and the ſaid Iſlands, the *Carolana* Iſlands, and ſo from henceforth will have them called, &c.

In Witneſs, &c.

"Witneſs the King at *Weſtminſter*, the 30th Day of October, in the 5th Year of our Reign."

Note, This is not the whole of the Charter, many other Privileges, &c. being granted by it as on Inſpection by the curious Reader will appear.

St. Mattheo has been found to be in thirty Degrees Northern Latitude, and *Passo Magno* in thirty-six; and from East to West this Province was to extend from the *Atlantic* Ocean to the great *South Sea*, and of Course includes all *Louisianne*; for as to the Country to the West of the *Mississippi*, that lies farther North than thirty-six Degrees; it is to be included in the Dependencies of *Canada*, and to be esteemed a Part of it, and of Course becomes a Portion of the *British* Dominions by the Cession which is made of *Canada*, with *all its Dependencies*, by the twenty-second Article of the published Preliminaries. And indeed it is with me a Matter of Doubt whether the *French* King does not by that Article cede to us *Louisianne*; for this last has always been esteemed a Dependency of *Canada*, its Governor being subordinate to the Governor of *Canada*, and subject to his Controul: But be this as it may, it cannot, I think, be doubted, but that we have a Right to *Louisianne* as a Part of our old Province of *Carolana*, being comprehended within the Limits described in *Charles* the First's

Charter,

Charter, of which I have already given my Readers an Extract in a Note. This Charter was granted long before any *European* had ſettled within the Limits deſcribed by it. The firſt that made any Attempt towards ſettling a *French* Colony in that Part of the *American* Continent was Monſ. *de la Salle*. About the Year 1679, this Gentleman having had, from certain *Indians* who retired towards *Canada*, when their firſt Wars broke out with the *Engliſh*, a very pleaſing Account of the Country bordering to the Eaſt and Weſt on the *Miſſiſippi*, and with Reaſon imagining, that as the Climate was milder than *Canada*, it would better agree with a *French* Conſtitution, and produce more valuable Commodities for the Increaſe of the *French* Trade; he undertook an Expedition thither over the Continent, and proceeding as far as the Lake *Illinois*, where, on the River *Miamihas*, he artfully gained the Permiſſion of the *Indians* to build a Fort, under Pretence of protecting them from the *Engliſh* and *Iroquis*, or Five Nations, whom he repreſented as cruel and treacherous. This Fort was

admirably well ſituated for Trade, being near the Head of a River that diſcharges itſelf into the *Miſſiſippi*, by that Means having an eaſy Communication with all the Southern Part of the Continent; and by Means of the Lakes it had as great Advantages to the North. It became afterwards the great Mart or Emporium of *French Indian* Trade, being uſed as a Magazine or Storehouſe for all Sorts of *European* Goods. It commanded the Entrance into the Lake, and kept all the neighbouring Nations in Awe and Subjection. This Fort Monſieur *de la Sale* called *Creve-coeur*, i. e. *Heart-break*, from the Grief with which he was ſeized for the Loſs of one of his chief trading Barks with a rich Cargo, and for the treacherous Intrigues of ſome of his Company, who firſt attempted to poiſon, and afterwards deſert him. This Fort continued in high eſteem with the *French*, till they diſcovered a nearer and eaſier Paſſage by the *Ouabache* and *Ohio*, the Heads of both which Rivers almoſt communicate with the Lake *Erie*. This ſame Monſieur *de la Salle*, in the Year

1685,

1685, made a Voyage by Sea, to diſcover the Mouth of the *Miſſiſippi*, which, being an enterprizing Man, it is ſaid, he purpoſely overſhot, going as far to the Weſt as the Bay of *St. Bernard*, which he called the Bay of *St. Louis*. Here he built a Fort, having formed a Deſign to viſit from thence the Mines of *St. Barbe*, in *New Biſcay*, which were not above a hundred Leagues diſtant, but he was obliged to deſiſt from his Enterprize, for one of his Veſſels returned to *France*, and the other three were loſt, with almoſt all his Stores, Ammunition, and Proviſions; beſides, he found it no eaſy Matter to engage the *Indians* in his Intereſt; they proved his bitter Enemies, and deſtroyed many of his Men; at length, this gallant, enterprizing, and publick ſpirited Officer, having choſen twenty Men for his Followers, went by Land, in ſearch of the *Miſſiſippi*, and was barbarouſly and inhumanly murdered by them. The Fort was ſoon afterwards taken and deſtroyed by the *Spaniards* and *Indians*, all the remaining *French* therein being either killed or taken Priſoners. The next Attempt was in 1700, near the

Eastern Branch of the *Mississippi*, now called the River *Iberville*, from Monsieur *D'Iberville*, who, in the Beginning of the Year, built a small Sconce near the Bay of *Biloxi*, and in it left forty Men well provided with Necessaries; he afterwards returned twice to *France* for Reinforcements, but on his third Voyage back to *Biloxi*, died. The *French* being about this Time engaged in a War, and having lost their active Commander, this, and another small Settlement they then had in the neighbourhood, were deserted for want of a timely Supply of Necessaries.

After the *English* had been many Years settled on the Banks of the great River *Cousa* *, to the East of the *Mississippi*, and had carried on a considerable Trade with the *Indians*, being kindly entertained as Friends by them, about the Year 1715, they were, by the Intrigues and Practices of the *French*, either murdered or obliged to make room for these bold Intruders, who immediately built a Fort there, and formed a Settlement which they named *Fort Louis*, making it the

* This River is now called by the *French*, *Mobille*.

chief

chief Residence of the Governor of *Louisiana*.

The best Harbour upon all the Coast of the Gulph of *Mexico*, is *Penſicola*. It is capacious and very safe from all Winds, has four Fathom at the Entrance, and gradually deepens to seven or eight. On the East of the Harbour enters a fine River, which has a Course of a hundred Miles, and is formed of two Streams, which unite at some Miles distance. *Penſicola* is ninety Leagues West from the upper Part of the Peninsula of *Florida*. On the West Side of the Bay there was some Years ago a small *Spaniſh* Town and Settlement, with a stockaded Fort of twelve or fourteen Guns: This the *French* took with small loss, in the Year 1719, from the *Spaniards*, who recovered it again in a few Months, but it was soon afterwards again taken by the *French*, and kept by them. This Harbour, which is about fourteen Leagues East of the River *Mobile*, consequently comprehended

* It is to be supposed the *Spaniards* have given up all Claim to this Country, or we may hereafter have a Dispute with them: They should guarantee the Possession of it to us.

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in the Track ceded by the sixth Article of the Preliminaries to *Great Britain* the utmost Consequence; it commands the Bay of *Mexico*, and gives the Power, in Time of War, to intercept all the *Spanish* Trade of *Panuco*, *La Vera Cruz*, *Campeche*, *Porto Bello*, and the *Havannah*.

It may not be amiss, in this Place, to say something of the Country that lies to the West of the *Mississippi*, which the *French* propose to retain. The first River you meet with of any Consequence going to the Westward, is that of the *Quonoarinnos*, or *Coenis*, so called from an *Indian* Nation; it is about eighty Leagues West of the *Mississippi*, broad, deep, and navigable, and proceeds from the Hills on the Borders of *New Mexico*. About thirty Leagues to the South-West is the River *Kirononas*, little less than that last mentioned; its Course is also from the North-West, having its Sources in the Mountains of *Mexico*. Between these two Rivers lies the Bay of *St. Barnard*, where Monsr. *de la Salle* built the Fort above-mentioned; he called a Stream which falls into this Bay the River of *Vaches*.

Vaches. About the ſame Diſtance farther South-Weſt is the River *Biſcatrongs*, nearly of the ſame Magnitude, and has the ſame Courſe, and its Heads from the ſame Mountains. The laſt River of Note is about the ſame Bigneſs, and enters the Bay of *Mexico* at the North-Weſt End between the Degrees 27 and 28; it is called *Abotas*.

Between the *Miſſiſſippi* on the Eaſt Side and the Peninſula of *Florida*, there are only two large Rivers; the firſt we meet with going to the Eaſt is the *Couſſa* River, or *Mobile*, the largeſt in this Quarter next to the *Miſſiſſippi* and *Ohio*; it has its Riſe on the Weſt Side of the *Apalachean* Mountains. At *Chiaha* on this River is a Pearl Fiſhery, there being found in that Part a Shell Fiſh which contains them. On the Banks of this River *Ferdinando Soto* reſided ſome Time in his famous Expedition. All the * *Spaniſh* Writers

* The faithful and judicious unknown *Portugueſe* Author of that Expedition, in a few words, thus deſcribes the Country bordering on this River: "It conſiſts of Hills, and Vallies between; their Granaries were full of *Indian* Corn and other Edibles, ſo populous that their Towns and Fields, ſowed with Corn, touched each other; the Country is very agreeable, by Reaſon of many Rivulets, which make lovely Meadows. There grow

of this Expedition into the Country on its Borders, as being pleasant, healthful, and fertile. This great River receives the Streams of a great Number of other smaller Rivers, which take their several Names from the *Indians* that inhabit their Banks, who were formerly very numerous, but now much decreased by frequent Wars; one whole Nation was in a manner destroyed by *Ferdinando Soto*; they inhabited a Province called *Taſcaluca*; it enters the Gulph of *Mexico* about fifteen Leagues to the East of the great Bay of *Naſſau*, or *Spiritu Santo*. The River runs into a kind of Lagune, or Bay, which is hatred four Miles from the Mouth of the River; at Low Water there is not on the Bar above three Fathom of Water in most Places, but increaſes when you are over it to five or ſix. The Harbour of *Panſacola* is already noticed, ſo we ſhall now proceed to the other great Ri-

grow naturally in the Fields, Prunes, better than we can in *Spain* produce by Culture even in our Gardens, Vines mount, in almost all Places near the Rivers, to the Tops of the Trees. There are abundance ſorts of Vines, which are low, and ſome run upon the Ground, and, by cultivating, might be wonderfully improved, though very good and pleaſant as they are in their natural State.

ver,

ver, which is the most Eastern Branch of the *Missisippi*, which discharges itself into the Bay of *Mexico*, between *Pensacola* and the Peninsula of *Florida*, in thirty Degrees of North Latitude and some Minutes. It is somewhat hard to find, on account of some Isles and Lagunes before it; and though a fine River, and comes far out of the Country, it has not above three Fathoms Water at the Bar, but that being passed is very deep and large; the Country near it being a perfect Level, and the River having a double Current, one from the South and the other from the West. The Tide flows higher up it than any other River along the Coast; some say above fifty Miles.

It is to be observed, that by the Preliminary Articles, the Line of Partition is to be drawn from the Head of the *Missisippi*, along the Middle of the Channel, till we come to the River *Iberville*, the eastern Mouth or Channel of that River, thereby leaving the fertile, pleasant, and large Island of *Nassau*, or *New Orleans*, as well as the fine Bay of *Nassau* or *Spiritu Santo*, in the Hands of the *French*,

together with the capital Town of *New Orleans*. This Island is, indeed, almost the only Part of *Louisiana* that is perfectly settled by the *French*, and ought, therefore, as being of Value to us, on that Account to have been included in the Cession they make of the Country East of the *Mississippi*. By retaining that Island they will be continual Spies on our Conduct, and ready to crush our Infant Settlements on the *Mobile*, *Palache*, at *Pensacola*, or wherever else it may be thought proper to make them, before they can possibly be well established and able to defend themselves; besides the Opportunities they will, by their Situation, have, to tamper with, and practise on, the Credulity of the *Indian* Inhabitants, and prevent their living on amicable Terms with the *English*. The Bay of *Nassau* is no inconsiderable Object, being so convenient as lying almost contiguous to the Entrance of the *Mississippi*; it is formed by four Islands, which run almost due South, a little inclining to the West; the most northerly between which and the Main is the Entrance of the Bay, being

eight

eight Leagues long, was called by the People, sent by Dr. *Cox* in the Year 1698 on Discovery, *Myrtle Island*. On digging there is Plenty of very good fresh Water. This Island, in some Places, is very narrow. The Bay is five Leagues broad from *Myrtle Island* to a Row of Islands which run parallel with the Main; the Length of the Bay from North to South is one entire Degree.

Though we are not at present to be possessed of the Isle of *Orleans*, yet the free Navigation of the whole Length of the *Mississippi* is given to us; it cannot, therefore, be unacceptable to my Readers if I give some few necessary Cautions with respect to entering this great River, at present so little known to the *English* Navigators in general. Though the Latitude and Longitude of the Mouths of the *Mississippi* were perfectly known, it is almost still impossible to find them in the common Way of sailing; for if you bear ever so little to the South you meet with a very strong Current that will drive you to the South-West two Miles an Hour till you come to the West End of the

Bay of *Mexico*, to prevent which, you must make the Main of *Florida* in about thirty Degrees of Latitude. The Land is so very low, you can scarcely see it at four Leagues distance, where there is forty-five or fifty Fathom; but ten Leagues off, there is no Ground at a hundred Fathom. *Penſicola*, already described, is the moſt convenient Place to fall in withal, for which Purpoſe it is beſt to make the *Tortuga Iſlands*, which are ſeven in Number, and but a few Leagues to the North West of Cape *Florida*, and the little Iſlands which lie before it, called *Los Martyres*. The *Tortuga Iſlands* lie between the Latitude of twenty-four Degrees, and from thirty-five to fifty Minutes, not in a Circle, as repreſented in the old Charts, but bear almoſt North and South. In *April*, *May*, and *June* they abound with good Turtle, whence their Name. The Courſe from the *Tortuga Iſlands* to *Penſicola*, is North forty-four Weſt, diſtance a hundred and fifty-eight Leagues, the Shore bold, bearing Eaſt and Weſt. Nine Leagues from Land there is thirty-three Fathom Water, but

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if you make the River *Coassus*, which is a hundred and sixty-seven Leagues, and is remarkable for a large opening with a small sandy Isle in the Middle, the Land will stretch East and West, and within eighteen Leagues you will fall in with *Myrtle Island*, which with the Main, makes the Entrance into the great Bay of *Spiritu Santo*. This, with five or six other low Isles, runs in a Range fourteen Leagues; and to the South West of them, about five Leagues, are high Woods. Stand over for the South Part of these Woods, till you come to four Fathom, then cast Anchor, and send a Boat to a low Point to the Southward along Shore. In five Feet Water you will find a small Branch of the River, row up to it, the Current will carry you to the Bar, where you may take your Marks for your Entrance into it. It may sometimes happen the Waters are too low to pass this Channel; in this Case run by the Soundings of the Shore in five or six Feet Water, and keep that Depth till you come to the pitch of the *East Cape*, where you will find the easterly Branch, in five or six Feet

Water.

Water. Row up, take your Marks, return, fix your Buoys, and you may carry your Ship into the River very safely. The like Caution must be used for entering either of the other Mouths, to keep near the Shore, and by anchoring stop the Tide of Ebb.

By enquiring into the Rights of the *French* to the Country, West of the *Mississippi*, I do not mean to insinuate that our Territory in *North America* is not already sufficiently extensive, especially comprehending the late ceded Provinces; but as we are all of us sensible what bad Neighbours the *French* are, if we can establish an acknowledged Right and Claim to the whole Northern Continent, our Colonists will be much more secure in their Lives and Properties, and the *Indian* Trade will be by far more considerable than it has ever yet been yet, as the Natives will have only an *English* Market to go to with their Furs: On the contrary, as the Case now stands, if we do not build Forts at the Mouth of almost every River that discharges its Waters into the East Side of the *Mississippi*, it is a great doubt with me, whether all the *Canadian* and

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Northern *Indians* will not ſtill find a Way to the *French* Markets, by means of the Lakes, which afford them an eaſy Navigation, and the Rivers that are almoſt contiguous to them, and fall into the *Miſſiſippi*. If this ſhould happen, *Canada* will be of no other Service to us, than as, by being in our Poſſeſſion, it removes the *French* to a greater Diſtance from the Back of our Northern Colonies, where they began to grow very troubleſome; but at the ſame Time it increaſes by Emigration their Numbers in the South, where our Coloniſts are not ſo well able to contend with them in their Encroachments.

It has been ſome Time paſt the Faſhion to depreciate the Value of the Southern Part of the Territory ceded to us by the Preliminaries; I ſhall, therefore, take this Opportunity to dwell a little on the native Commodities of this Region; but it muſt be remembered, when I am giving an Account of the Advantages poſſeſſed by the ceded Territory, that the Country to the Weſt of the great River ſtill to be retained by the *French* is, in all Reſpects, equal, and in ſome ſuperior to it; conſe-

quently

quently it is well worth our while to keep up the juſt Claim we have to it as part of our old Province of *Carolina*.

In the firſt Place, then, this Country abounds with *Indian* Corn, of which the Natives have always two, and ſometimes three Crops in a Year; the Uſe of this is well known on the Continent. Along the Coaſts, and two or three hundred Miles up the Country from the Sea, they have the Root *Mandihoca*, of which the Caſſavi or Caſſada Cakes and Bread is made, the chief Food of the *Indians* between the Tropicks, and eſteemed a good Nouriſhment. This Country beſides affords another Kind of Corn like Oats, but larger, which exceeds our Oatmeal; this grows ſpontaneouſly in marſhy Places. They have Limes in Plenty, and Prunes growing in the open Fields, which are often dried for Winter Proviſion; other Fruits they have common to the Latitude in which the Country lies, but I cannot paſs over the Grape in Silence. They have Vines of ſeveral Kinds growing wild in the Woods, ſome of which climb the Trees, others run on the Ground, and,

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in all Probability, were they properly cultivated and pruned, they would yield as good Grapes, and conſequently as good Wine, as any Part of *Europe* affords. As in *England* our Conſumption of this enchanting Liquor is ſo great, it would be an amazing Saving to the Nation could we be ſupplied with it from our own Colonies; which, perhaps, may, in Time, be the Caſe, as we are to be poſſeſſed of this fertile Country in which Vines thrive ſo well. There are Beeves in great Plenty in the Woods, as well as Store of Veniſon and Game; the Sheep to be found there are of the *Spaniſh* Breed, their Fleſh is as good as ours, and the Wool better for many Uſes: Hogs are very numerous, and their Fleſh good; Turkies, Buſtards, Pheaſants, Partridges, Pidgeons, *&c. &c.* are without Number, as well as all Sorts of Sea Fowl.

I muſt now take Notice of an Article of much more Importance than any I have hitherto mentioned, I mean Cotton, which grows here wild, and may be managed and improved to as great Advantage as in the *Weſt Indies*. A popular Writer has lately laid a great

Streſs on the Quantity of Cotton annually imported from *Guadalupe* ſince it has been in our Hands, and chiefly from that Article eſtimated the future Value of the Iſland; but as we are now to have a Territory every Way as proper for the Growth of it, and of much larger Extent, why ſhould we lament the Loſs of that Iſland, or why blame the Miniſtry for reſtoring it, when we can reap all the Advantages it could have afforded, from that Part of *Louiſianne* which we are to poſſeſs? This may, perhaps, be denied; but let me aſſure the Objectors, that Coffee, Tea *, and ſome Kinds of Spices, will certainly thrive and come to Perfection there; and it is more than believed that Sugar Canes might be planted to good Advantage. Cochineal is another Commodity of great Value; this is produced in Plenty enough to ſupply all our Wants; the *Tuna*, on

* A few Years ago a *Dutchman*, who had lived many Years in *China*, learned there the Art of drying the ſeveral Kinds of Tea; this Man afterwards ſettled in *South Carolina*, and having brought with him ſome Tea Seeds, planted them in his Garden, where they grew, and throve prodigiouſly, bearing plenty of Leaves and Flowers; but before the *Dutchman* had an Opportunity of putting his Knowledge in practice, he died, and the Art dropped with him, but the Tea Plants have been propagated in Gardens there ever ſince.

which

which it feeds, being common there both on the East and West Sides of the *Mississippi*, for some hundred Miles up the Country from the Gulph of *Mexico*. Cochineal * is a Commodity of such Value, and so evidently useful and necessary in Dying, that too much Attention cannot be had to the Production of Plenty of it in our Colonies.

The next Article to be mentioned is Ambergrease, which is often found on this Coast, from the Cape of *Florida* to

* The Cochineal is an Insect that breeds and feeds on the *Tunal*, or *Tuna*, of which there are divers Sorts, all to be found in the Territory bordering on the *Mississippi*. After a Time these Insects fasten themselves to the Leaves, being covered by a small fine Webb, which, when come to Maturity, they eat through, and fall to the Ground. The *Spaniards*, in *Mexico*, are very curious in gathering them; they carefully watch the Season, and, spreading Sheets under the Plants, receive the falling Insects, which, being dried, are curiously packed and sent to *Spain*, and from thence distributed to the most civilized Parts of *Asia* and *Europe*. The Cochineal is of two Sorts, one wild, which they call *Silvester*; this, though it bears a good Price, is far from being either so good or so valuable as that which is regularly cultivated in Gardens, in a Manner not much unlike the Method used in growing Tobacco in *Virginia*, &c. *Acosta* tells us, that in the Fleet wherein he returned from *Mexico* to *Spain*, that Province only shipped 5677 Arobes, each 25lb. weight, and valued at 283,750 Pieces of Eight; the Quantities have been since much more considerable, and the Value of it in *Europe* greatly encreased, which occasions Cloth, &c. of a scarlet, &c. Colour to be dearest of any.

Mexico, and is of great Value. Salt, ſo neceſſary to human Life and Health, may be made up the Country, from ſeveral Salt Springs which are to be met with near ſome of the Branches of the *Miſſiſſippi*, both on the Eaſtern and Weſtern Sides. Silk is a Commodity of ſuch Uſe, nay, ſo very eſſential to the being of a great Manufacture, that it is needleſs to enlarge on the Benefits that would accrue from the extenſive Production of it in our Southern Colonies. The Territory of which we are now treating, abounds with Foreſts of Mulberry Trees, the well known Food of the Silk Worm. The Climate is very favourable to the Health of the Inſect, and certainly, with proper Encouragement, a conſiderable Quantity of Silk might be produced here by the Labour of the Women and Children of even an Infant Colony; ſo much Treaſure is annually carried out of the Nation for Raw Silk *, that it is

* The Silk we import from *China*, *Bengal*, and other Parts of the *Eaſt Indies*, *Perſia*, *Turkey*, *Naples*, &c. ſerves for diſtinct Uſes; in all probability the *Miſſiſſippi* Country would produce every diſtinct Kind in the different inland Parts. It would poſſibly ſucceed better than in *Carolina*, as at a Diſtance from the Sea the Air is more ſalubrious for the Worms, being leſs damp, and not ſo much ſubject to Fogs. The *Chineſe* ſow Mul-

berry

become an Object well worth the publick Attention. *South Carolina** has produced it, and *Georgia* has now great Encouragement for that Purpose. On the Coast of the Bay of *Mexico*, on both Sides the *Miſſiſippi*, eſpecially after high South Winds, is found a Sort of Stone Pitch, called by the *Spaniards Copec*: This, when made more liquid by a Mixture of Greaſe, is eſteemed in hot Countries, preferable to Pitch, for paying Ships Bottoms, not being ſo apt to melt by the Heat. Hemp and Flax may be cultivated here to any extent, the Plants that produce them growing naturally wild. Timber abounds,

berry Trees in Beds as we do Pot-herbs, and mow thoſe of one Year's Growth, which are very tender, for the young Worms; the ſecond Year's Growth they feed them with when they are ſomewhat larger, and when ſtrong, they ſupply them with Leaves from the Trees; this Method ſecures them from Diſeaſes, to which they are ſo ſubject if fed with tough Leaves when young; it alſo ſaves Trouble, and thereby leſſens the Number of Hands neceſſary to attend them.

* Sir *Nathanael Johnſon* many Years ago made a Trial of raiſing Silk Worms in *South Carolina*, and met with all the Succeſs he could in Reaſon wiſh for; but there being at that Time no public Encouragement given, he was under a Neceſſity of dropping his public ſpirited Undertaking, on account of the Dearneſs of Labour, there being at that Time ſo very few Hands to be hired under a very exorbitant Price. In *Georgia* they have of late had better Succeſs, owing to the public Eſtabliſhment, and to the Support they have had.

as Oak, Fir, Cedar, Spruce, Pine, and divers others; of course Tar, Pitch, and Resin cannot be long wanting; and as the Country is in some Parts very woody, Potash might be made here as well as in the other Colonies.

By the sixteenth Preliminary Article, "The Subjects of *Great Britain* have "Liberty granted them of cutting and "carrying away Logwood from the Bay of "*Honduras*;" this is in general looked upon as a great Point gained; but it would certainly be much more eligible to have this useful Wood from our own Dominions. The *Mississippi* Country affords it, as well as many other dying Woods, as Fustick, &c. It is therefore to be hoped, that when a Colony is established in our new Southern Acquisition, this Trade will be no longer precarious, and at the mercy of the *Spaniards*, at the Commencement of every War. Many Roots are used by the *Indians* in these Parts, which may be found very useful to Dyers. Besides the Advantages already mentioned, there are Mines of Lead, Copper, Cinnabar, Iron, and Coals, which, when worked, would be

very

very profitable to the Undertakers.

These are Commodities which this Country produces; it may not in the next Place be improper to enumerate a few that, in all human Probability, would thrive there. Olives * might certainly be planted here to great Advantage, and the Sums of Money we annually send to *Spain* and *Italy* for the Fruit and Oil, might be saved to the Nation. Almond Trees would also thrive, and supply the Consumption of *Great Britain*, with the Fruit and Oil, which would be some saving. We annually import vast Quantities of Currants † from *Spain* and the *Levant*,

* *Acosta*, in enumerating the Productions of the *West Indies*, particularly mentions Olives and Almonds as thriving so well in *Mexico*, as to exceed those of *Spain* and *Italy*, but, for very obvious political Reasons, both they and the Vines are forbidden to be used for the Production of Oil or Wine.

† Olives, Almonds, and Currants were thought such necessary Commodities, that King *Charles* the Second, with the Advice of his Council, gave great Encouragement, in his Patent for *Carolina*, to the Proprietors, Planters, or any others, who should produce and import them to *England*; as also Capers, and some other Commodities therein mentioned. Indeed we of this Century are too little attentive to the Degree of Encouragement that it is proper and necessary to give to our Colonies, in the Production of particular Commodities; was this Point attended to, we should not so frequently hear Complaints made, that the Trade of *North America* interferes with that of the Mother Country; but if they are not tempted by Rewards, and a good Market, to employ

the Iſlands of *Zant* and *Cephalonia*; and it cannot but be remembered how ſcarce and dear they are grown ſince the Commencement of the *Spaniſh* War. That they would grow in the ceded Territory is more than probable, the Climate and Latitude being much the ſame with the Iſlands above-mentioned. It is not at all improbable, for many Reaſons, but that Saltpetre might be made here, as well as in the *Eaſt Indies*; and this is, indeed, well worth enquiring into, as it would make us much more certain of a regular Supply of Gunpowder than we have ever yet been; it has been attempted in *England*, but not with the wiſhed-for Succeſs.

Should I venture to ſay that this Country might be made to produce ſome of the dearer Kind of Spices, it might, perhaps, ſeem ideal, yet why it ſhould not is no Way obvious to my Comprehenſion. Moſt of the fine Fruits we have in *England* are of foreign Original, but have been, at various Times, tranſplanted into

employ their Time in raiſing Commodities that may anſwer their Purpoſe of maintaining their Families, without being detrimental to *England*, they muſt of courſe attend to what affords them the moſt ready Profit abſtracted from any other Conſideration.

this

this Island, and by proper Culture, as it were, naturalized to the Climate; how much more eaſy, then, muſt it be to bring the Trees which bear the Spices to thrive in a Climate which is nearly, if not in an equal Degree poſſeſſed of all the Advantages that in which they originally and ſpontaneouſly grew can boaſt. The *Dutch*, perhaps, would not chuſe we ſhould pay any Attention to this Point, but the Advantage it would be of to *England* is ſufficiently obvious.

Were I to give my Pen the Liberty, I could enumerate many other uſeful Commodities which this Country either naturally produces, or which might, with due Culture, be brought to thrive in it; Commodities which ought to be encouraged in all our Colonies; I have in particular omitted Rice, leſt it might ſeem to interfere with the Trade of *Carolina*; yet as that Province cannot ſupply a ſufficient Quantity for our Home Conſumption, but we are ſtill obliged to import much, I ſee no Reaſon why the Growth of it ſhould not be encouraged in the Colony to be planted in the ceded Territory.

Many Tracts of Land near the Banks of the numerous Rivers are well adapted to the Purpoſe; and if the Quantity raiſed was thereby in any conſiderable Degree increaſed, it would not only employ more Shipping, and of courſe a greater Number of Seamen, but might be a probable Means of reducing the Price of it, and make it of courſe be much more generally eat by the poorer Kind of People, who would be glad of an innocently-increaſed Variety of Food.

The Articles I have already mentioned are common to the Country on both Sides of the *Miſſiſſippi*; but the Weſtern Territory, which is ſtill to be retained by the *French*, can, it is ſaid, boaſt of other Advantages, I mean Gold and Silver Mines in the Mountains to the Weſt, which ſeparate this Country from *New Mexico*. It would not, perhaps, be for our Intereſt, as a Nation, to be poſſeſſed of them, at leaſt if, as in *Spain*, they ſhould enervate us with Luxury, and ſtifle that Spirit of Enterprize and Induſtry for which the *Engliſh* Nation has been long famed.

It is, perhaps, Time to return to our original Subject, and say a few Words more relative to the Right the *French* have to the fine Territory to the West of the *Miſſiſippi*. Take this Matter in any Light whatever, we have certainly a better, as well as a prior Right to the Country in Queſtion, not only as firſt Diſcoverers of it, but as firſt Settlers and Occupiers.

We do not find that the *French* had any Footing in what they call *Louiſianne*, till Monſ. *de la Salle* made an Expedition thither about the Year 1685, not ſo much with an Intention of forming a Settlement, as to ſurprize the *Spaniſh* Mines of *St. Barbe*. Monſ. *Iberville* was the next, who about the Year 1700 formed a ſmall Settlement, which was afterwards abandoned, near the Bay of *Bilocohy*, and it was near fifteen Years from that Time before it bore any Semblance of a *French* Colony; then, indeed, the *Engliſh* were by Violence driven from their Settlements and Houſes; and from that Time it has been entirely, though unjuſtly, poſſeſſed by the *French*. The City of *New Or-*

leans has risen to a sudden Degree of Eminence, and that whole Quarter of the *American* Continent has by the *French* been distinguished by the Name of *La Louisianne*.

If we examine into the Right of the *English* to this fruitful Track, we shall find it much better founded, if we allow the first Discovery, Grant, Possession, and other most material Circumstances, to have their due Weight. *Sebastian Cabot* was in the *English* Service and Pay, when he made the Discovery. King *Charles* the First granted a Patent of the particular Track the *French* affect to call *Louisianne*, to Sir *Robert Heath*; this Patent was duly assigned over to Lord *Maltravers*, afterwards Earl of *Arundel*, who took actual Possession of the Country, and planted several Parts of it, and this so early as before the breaking out of the Civil Wars.

In the Year 1678, some *New England* Men went on Discovery *, and proceeded the whole Length of the Southern

* It is to be noted, the Planters, who had before this Time made Settlements in this Country, had, for the most Part, gone over Land from the East Coast, settled by the *English*, the Mouths of the *Mississippi* being not yet known.

Coast

Coaſt of the Continent as far as *Mexico*, at their return rendering an Account of their Proceedings to the Government of *Boſton*. Colonel *Wood* had, ſeveral Years before, diſcovered the Branches of the great River *Ohio* and the *Miſſiſippi*; and ſoon afterwards Dr. *Cox*, who became by divers mean Aſſignments entitled to the Province, under the original Charter, made by his Agents ſeveral very important Diſcoveries, many of his People paſſing the whole Continent from *Penſilvania*, by the *Suſquehanah* River, to *New Mexico*, diſcovering thereby Territories altogether unknown to the *French*. But what is moſt material, and beſt aſcertains our Right to the Province in Queſtion is, that the ſame Dr. *Cox*, in the Year 1698, fitted out two Ships, provided with twenty great Guns, ſixteen Pateraroes, with ſmall Arms, Ammunition, Stores, and Proviſions of all Sorts, not only for the Uſe of thoſe on board, and for making Diſcoveries by Sea, but alſo for building a Fortification, and ſettling a Colony, there being in theſe Veſſels, beſides the Complement of Men, above thirty *Engliſh* and

French

French Volunteers, all Gentlemen. One of these Ships discovered the Mouths of the great and famous River *Missisippi*, entered and ascended it above a hundred Miles, and had perfected a Settlement in it, had not the Captain of the other Ship failed to perform his Duty and Engagements by deserting his Comrades; and such was the publick Spirit of Dr. *Cox*, that had it been done, there would never after have been any Danger of the *French* Nation's getting, what they have since done, on that Part of the Continent. As it was, however, they took Possession of the Country in the Name of King *William*, and left in several Places the Arms of *England* affixed on Boards and Trees, as a lasting Memorial of it. But what is most to our Purpose is, that this was the first Ship that ever entered that River from the Sea, or that perfectly discovered and described its several Mouths, (tho' the *French*, without any Appearance of Truth, assume to themselves the Honour of both) and King *William* was so well pleased, that when a Memorial was presented to him on the Occasion, calling a general

Council

Council to consider of it, he, and above twenty of the Council who were present, unanimously agreed that the Design of settling the said Province, ought to be speedily encouraged and promoted, often afterwards declaring, *That he would leap over twenty stumbling Blocks rather than not effect it*: And he also frequently assured the Proprietor, that the Design should not only receive publick Encouragement, but that he would, at his own Cost, send over six or eight hundred *French* Refugees and *Vaudois* to join the *English* who should settle there. Many Men of great Distinction made Offers to the same Purpose, particularly the Lord *Lonsdale*, then Lord Privy Seal, generously offered to assist the Design with two thousand Pounds in ready Money, or a Ship of two hundred Tons, with a hundred Settlers of whatever Trade or Occupation the Proprietor should choose, amply provided with necessary Tools, Instruments, and Provisions, for the Space of one Year; but the sudden Death of that noble Lord, and soon after of King *William*, put a Period at that Time to this

great

great Undertaking. Our Right nevertheleſs to this Territory was ſtill indiſputable, tho' thro' our Delays and Want of publick Spirit, the *French* after this taking the Advantage, ſettled a Colony there, and called the Country *Louiſianne*.

That *Great Britain* ſhould be poſſeſſed of the whole *North American* Continent, ſeems to be a favourite, and, indeed, neceſſary Maxim of modern Policy; it could not, therefore, be improper to give the Publick, at this Juncture, a ſlight Sketch of our Right to the only Part of it that we ſhall not ſoon be poſſeſſed of; when a Claim lies long dormant, it is apt to be forgot: This Tract, therefore, though otherwiſe perhaps of ſmall Moment, will ſerve to remind my Countrymen, that there may ſtill be, ſome Time or other, a proper Criſis to aſſert our Rights and ancient Claims on the *French* Nation. We have, it muſt be owned, loſt ſeveral very proper Opportunities of doing it. There ſeems to be a Kind of Fatality in our Dealings with them; tho' a War may be carried on for ſeveral Years with an almoſt uninterrupted Career of

glorious

glorious Succeſſes, the Iſſue of it ſeldom yields us the expected Advantages either in Trade or Dominion. The Ceſſion of the Territory at the Back of our *American* Colonies is a Point of Importance gained, yet is not our Dominion there as compleat as it ſhould be; we ſhall ſtill be liable to have our Back Settlers expoſed to *French* and *Indian* Incurſions and Depredations.

The enterprizing Spirits that made no Difficulty, by croſſing the Lakes, to traverſe a Country above two hundred Leagues before they entered on their Expeditions, will find it eaſy, now they are to be removed nearer to us, to change occaſionally the Weſtern for the Eaſtern Bank of the *Miſſiſſippi*, and thereby as effectually encroach on our Territory, and diſturb our Settlers, as they did in the Beginning of the War, *and ſome Years before*, when their chief Settlement and greateſt Force was on the inhoſpitable Banks of the frozen *St. Lawrence*, where they had every Diſadvantage of Climate to contend with, and were under a Neceſſity of timing their hoſtile Excurſions

to particular Seaſons; they will now, in *their Louiſianne*, be at hand to moleſt us; the Settlement in the Iſland of *Orleans*, which is not to be ceded, will give the *French* a continual Opportunity of watching our Motions, or ſpiriting the *Indians* againſt us; ſo that in effect, by leaving to them the Territory to the Weſt of the River, and thereby leaving our *American* Empire incompleat, we may poſſibly, in the Space of a few Years, have that Work to do over again which has already coſt us ſo many Millions to perform.

I have only, before I conclude, to add, that I owe many of the Facts communicated in this ſhort Tract to ſome authentic Materials collected by Dr. *Cox*, ſo often mentioned, and his Son, *Daniel Cox*, Eſq. This Piece of Juſtice I thought due to the Memory of two worthy and publick-ſpirited Men.

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